

Appl. No. 10/050,801
December 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

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-- As stated previously, the visibility index for a particular material includes the three parameters of total transmittance, haze, and clarity, and the visibility index is a quantitative measure of optical characteristics of a material. When comparing the visibility index of several materials, and in particular those that interact with one another and/or are used in combination with one another, e.g., a package of wipes, the inventors have made a surprising and unexpected discovery. In particular, they have discovered that this comparison can be controlled to visibly indicate the positioning of one material relative to another, e.g., an object inside a package, as determined by the visibility indexes of the materials, e.g., a package wall and a wipe. In turn, this is related to a qualitative visibility indication as seen through a pair of human eyes (i.e., preferably with 20/20 vision) viewing the closed package at a set elevation and a set distance, such that the human can determine the positioning of a desired material within the package. In another aspect, the ability to control this comparison (i.e., and thus be able to manipulate it with accuracy, if desired) can provide a broader operating window for available materials that can be selected to make the package and/or its contents and still achieve the desired visibility indication result. In a related aspect, this can be advantageous to enable the use of materials that have a Visibility Indication between the extremes of completely transparent and completely opaque, as discussed in reference to the Table below (e.g., in the range from 1 to 4).--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 10, line 2 and ending on page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraphs:

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-- Reference is now made to the Table to further describe the invention. The Table is the culmination of work done by the inventors to show the visibility indexes for several different materials, and as related to the invention. The particular materials used were for sample purposes and in no way limit the invention. Rather, it is the particular visibility index for each material and the comparison of those indexes which relate to components of the invention (i.e., wipe-first visibility index, versus container top-second visibility index, versus dispensing partition-third visibility index) that are significant. The Table sets out a Key at the top. Directly underneath the Key, there is seen the First Visibility Index for a material as if it were a wipe. Underneath the First Visibility Index are several columns. The first column identifies the various examples that were

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based on a comparison of different sample materials. The next column identifies the 3rd Visibility Index for a sample material as if it were a dispensing partition. The next column identifies the difference between the First Visibility Index and the Third Visibility Index for a given example. The next column identifies the 2nd Visibility Index for a sample material as if it were a container top. The last column identifies the Visibility Indication for a given example (i.e., whether the wipe from the group of wet wipes can be visibly indicated at the container top as being in-position or not-in-position for pop-up dispensing as soon as the container top is next opened).

a 2 The Visibility Indication is the qualitative visibility indication as seen through a pair of human eyes, where a rating of "5" means clearly visibly (i.e., as if the container top were a completely transparent material such as 1/8 inch thick clear glass) and decreasing degrees of visibility from "4", "3", "2" to "1" (i.e., where the wipe would still be visibly indicated as being in-position or not-in-position but not as clearly as "2" to "5") are shown for comparison purposes, and a rating of "0" means not visible at all (i.e., as if the container top were a completely opaque material such as 1/4 inch thick plywood). With the components of the invention in their relative positions, the Visibility Indication was determined by positioning a one inch (2.5 cm) length of wipe sticking out of the dispensing orifice between the dispensing partition and the container top, and with the container top closed.

Further, and in reference to Figure 1 for example, the Visibility Indication was determined by a human observing the package 10, with: the human's pair of eyes having a combined average vision of 20/20 or better; the eyes being positioned in the angle W from about 30 degrees to about 90 degrees above the horizontal axis 50; the eyes being at a distance 52 of between about 6 inches (15 cm) and about 12 inches (30 cm); and, the eyes being at a distance 54 of between about 6 inches (15 cm) and about 18 inches (45 cm). In this way, simulating the container top being closed with the wipe partially dispensed thereunder, the human could then make a visual determination whether the wipe could be visibly seen at the container top, based on the visibility scale of "0" to "5". If the Visibility Indication was a "1" or higher, this meant that the particular configuration of materials simulating the package of the invention would visibly indicate to a user that the wipe was in-position for pop-up dispensing as soon as the container top was next opened. Using the same materials and if all else was constant but the wipe was displaced from the dispensing orifice, then a Visibility Indication of "1" to "5" would result in the wipe being visibly indicated as not-in-position for pop-up dispensing as soon as the container top was next opened. If the Visibility Indication was "0" then this would mean it did not matter if the wipe was in-position or not-in-position because no visual identification could be seen through the container top.

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It should be understood that the Visibility Indication does not limit the invention per se. Rather, the Visibility Indication was used to define aspects of the visibility indexes for components of the invention. Particularly, it shows the combinations of and interactions of the components and their visibility indexes to achieve the benefits of the invention, e.g., such that when the container top is closed the wipe from the group of wet wipes is visibly indicated at the container top as being in-position or not-in-position for pop-up dispensing as soon as the container top is next opened. In one regard, though, there is a lower limit that the interaction of the visibility indexes need to surpass (e.g., illustrated in the Table as a Visibility Indication of at least "1") or else it will simply not be possible to visibly indicate whether a wipe is in-position or not-in-position for pop-up dispensing as soon as the container top is next opened. Using the quantitative and qualitative information taught here, a manufacturer of a package could make the package have the desired features of the invention such that a user of the package would only ever have to make qualitative determinations to know that a wipe is in-position or not-in-position for pop-up dispensing as soon as the container top of the package is next opened.--